

Claims

[c1] A rule based computerized method of developing, implementing and administering legislation, the method including:-

developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be developed, written in and delivered;

utilizing the computerized database to develop the policy for the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;

utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;

utilizing the computerized database to design the service to administer the legislation in accordance with the set of rules, and

utilizing the computerized database to administer and/ or evaluate the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;

wherein the policy development, writing of legislation, service design, administration and/or evaluation are functionally integrated by the computerized database;

wherein the rules are such as can be expressed in the general format "IF [premise], THEN [conclusion]";

wherein the policy development includes at least one of

the following functions: policy analysis, development of policy options, public consultation, testing and refining policy;

wherein the writing of legislation includes at least one of the following functions: drafting legislation, testing and refining draft legislation, enactment of legislation;

wherein the service design includes at least one of the following functions: testing impact of final legislation, translation of legislation into operational policy, data requirements analysis, design of service delivery structures and systems, public education;

wherein the administration includes at least one of the following functions: public education, staff training, delivery of services, and

wherein the evaluation includes at least one of the following functions: design of policy impact measurement, measurement of policy impact.

[c2] A rule based method of developing, implementing and administering legislation as claimed in claim 1 wherein the rules are written in a spoken language, the method further including:-

converting the rules when written in the spoken language into a stylized or symbolic format or representation.

- [c3] A rule based method of developing, implementing and administering legislation as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules.
- [c4] A rule based method of developing, implementing and administering legislation as claimed in claim 3, wherein the format or representation includes:-
 - an alternative conclusion for reflecting the closed nature of legislative rules, and/or
 - a source reference for referencing items in the database to legislative provisions, and/or
 - a configuration syntax whereby the rules are written in the form of the legislative provisions.
- [c5] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, the method including:-
 - developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules expressed in the general format "IF [premise], THEN [conclusion]" in accordance with which the legislation can be written, and
 - utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;
 - wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the

legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules, and wherein the writing of legislation includes at least one of the following functions: drafting legislation, testing and refining draft legislation, enactment of legislation.

- [c6] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, wherein a computerized database is developed containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be written, the rules being written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules, the computerized database being utilized to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules; the method including:-
 - developing a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions which constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure, and
 - designing a computer model incorporating the agreed legislative drafting conventions.
- [c7] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, the method including:-
 - developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be written, and

utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;
wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules;
wherein a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure, and
wherein the agreed legislative drafting conventions are incorporated in a computer model.

- [c8] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 6, wherein the computer model is an XML schema.
- [c9] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 7 and further including:-
providing enhancements to the task of editing when drafting legislation whereby the use of the legislative drafting conventions is facilitated.
- [c10] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 9 and further including:-
creating a legislative parser to convert the text of the legislation to a form that can be checked against the computer model and to report any failures to the drafter

of the legislation.

- [c11] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 10 and further including:-
creating facilities to import the parsed legislation into a pre-existing legislative rulebase technology, and to generate a rulebase.
- [c12] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 11 and further including:-
creating a testing methodology whereby the drafter of the legislation can specify and test an appropriate range of cases against the legislation.
- [c13] A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a method as claimed in claim 1, for developing, implementing and administering legislation.
- [c14] A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a method as claimed in claim any one of claims 5 of writing legislation.
- [c15] A rule based computerized system for developing, implementing and administering legislation, the system including:-
a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be de-

veloped, written and delivered, and program means for executing the set of rules to develop the policy for the legislation and/or to write the legislation and/or to administer the legislation and/or to administer the legislation and/or evaluate the legislation; wherein the policy development, writing of legislation, service design, administration and/or evaluation are functionally integrated by the computerized database.

- [c16] A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that provides a system as claimed in claim 15 for developing, implementing and administering legislation.
- [c17] A rule based computerized system for writing legislation, the system including:-
 - a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be written, and
 - program means for executing the set of rules to write the legislation;
 - wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules.
- [c18] A rule based computerized system for writing legislation

as claimed in claim 17, wherein a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure, and wherein the program means utilizes a computer model incorporating the agreed legislative drafting conventions.

- [c19] A rule based computerized system for writing legislation as claimed in claim 18, wherein the computer model is an XML schema.
- [c20] A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a system as claimed in claim 17, for writing legislation.